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PATENT

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

**Applicant:** ESAB AB

**Serial Number:** 09/402185

**Filed:** 9/28/99

**For:** METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR FRICTION STIR WELDING

**Attorney Docket Number:** 5746

**AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO OFFICIAL ACTION**

Hon. Commissioner of  
Patents and Trademarks  
Alexandria, VA 22313

September 28, 2004

Sir:

Applicant hereby requests a Continued Examination of the above application. In support of this Request for Continued Exam, applicant hereby submits the following Amendment and Response and the fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(e).

**In the Claims:**

Please amend claims 1, 3-21 and 14-21 and add new claims 22-37 as shown in the section entitled Claim Amendments.